



Start of Herbert Korner Collection

AR 11760

Sys #: 000357135

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AR 11760

1/1

Herbert Kornher Collection

1917- 2002

Archives

Herbert Korner Collection (AHC 2413)

The following items are copies:

1. AHC quest II
2. HK's birth certificate, issued by the 'Matrikelamt der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde Wien' on 09/02/1921
3. A "Heimatschein" of the Republic of Austria and City of Vienna, issued by the 'Magistratisches Bezirksamt 1030 Vienna', on 03/09/1926
4. Marriage certificate of HK's parents, issued by the 'Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien' on 02/20/1958, certifying they married on 10/14/1917



2413

THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 15 WEST 16TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10011, TEL (212) 744 - 6400

We kindly ask you to answer the following questions in as much detail as possible, either in English or in German. If you need more space, please feel free to use additional sheets. If you don't know the answer to certain questions or don't want to answer for any reason, just go on to the next question.

NAME: HERBERT KORNER (KÖRNER) DATE: 10/16/02

1. BEFORE MARCH 1938

1.1 Please describe your parental home.

(Did you live in an apartment or in a house? How many people lived there with you? Did you have servants? What language(s) were spoken in the household?)

We lived in a comfortable apartment with quarters for a servant. We were a family of four with a servant. The language was german only.

1.2 Please tell us about your neighborhood (District in Vienna or area).

(What ethnic groups lived there? Religious life? Relationships between Jews and non-Jews? Relationships with neighbors?)

It was a middle class area in the third district with apartment houses only. The larger street (Erdberg Straße) provided stores and services. It was a predominant Christian neighborhood, there were no relationships with any other families. In the apt. house were 12 families three of which were Jewish. There were no relations to the other few families with the exception that I had a friend in one. High

Holiday Services were held in various synagogues.

1.3 What religious tradition existed in your family?

(Did you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe holidays, etc.?)

My mother was very conservative, my father a modern man holding to the traditions. The family functioned together on High Holidays and Friday nights at home. My mother tried to hold me to perform minimum religious acts (morning prayers otherwise no breakfast) and cooked Kosher in my early years and also to provide Kosher food for her religious ~~father~~ in the Second district. As time went by there was a lessening out process with keeping only the most important holidays.

1.4 Please, tell us about your friends and acquaintances ?

(Were they mostly Jewish or non-Jewish? Did you have any close non-Jewish friends?)

My childhood friends were two other boys, one assimilated Jewish one half-Jewish. Through school there were other Jewish boys I knew but no after school relation took place. During my Gymnasium years I had a gentile friend but visits to each others home did not take place. Only one friend living the floor above led to home visit exchanges. My mother was very strict and all my relations were restricted.

1.5 Were you affiliated with any political, social or religious organization?

(Youth Organizations, Zionist Organizations, Political Parties, other organizations)

If so, did you have any specific function?

In my teens I became acquainted with Zionist organizations due to my fathers close association with a middle of the road Zionist organization. This was my first association. The other organization I visited more often but did not join was a more aggressive right wing group. I began to understand my fathers position and did not join where my friends gathered. I abstained from wearing a uniform was not good member and slowly turned to the literature of Jewish background and Zionism.

1.6 Did you or your family encounter any anti-Semitism in Austria before March 1938?

(If so, please give details.)

Absolutely. If controlled social and intellectual separation. In a conscious way it started early in high school with disparaging remarks by an important teacher. The boys took it up. Remarks pertaining to my religion and physical threats resulted fights (first). Having been more aggressive I became the defender of my Jewish classmates. At that time the remarks by the teacher were taken seriously where I reported to my father. It led to confrontation on the part of the school authority. My existence became isolation. I was examined only in front of the whole class and obtained poor marks. When changing school to a technical institution the same situation arose. I ignored the teachers and was strong enough to defend myself.

1.7 What was your/your family's reaction to Hitler's rise to power in Germany in 1933 and to Nazi activity in Austria in the early thirties?

Did you/they feel threatened by these events?

In 33 I was only 12 years old. I observed a closing up of life. No summer vacation, increasing number of German families coming through the area. An awareness was created not to purchase German made goods. I walked less and used my bicycle most of the time. Stay away from people. Until the "Anschluss" there was observation but little anticipation. While my father and older brother encountered public confrontation my life as a teenager changed little. Most of the information came from the emigrating German families. None of the family members resulted in any actions or decisions what to do.

2. FROM MARCH 1938 TO EMIGRATION - FROM EUROPE TO AMERICA

2.1 How was your time spent during and after the "Anschluss"?

What was the impact of the "Anschluss" on you personally?

(Were you expelled from school/university? Did you or somebody in your family lose your/their jobs? Were your apartments/houses looted? Were you (or members of your family) persecuted? Were you/they forced to scrub the streets?)

I was not expelled from the Technical School but isolated to sit alone. Examination were taken with other students and I finished the school year. My father and brother had left Austria before March 12/38 due to the political condition in Austria. Being the younger one I had to stay behind to take care of my mother. She did not want to leave as long as her aged father lived (he was beaten and killed by women descending from a truck). She also helped emigrating other family members. Private and uniformed members came to the house for inquiries about my brother and father. The beating was systematic we were defenseless. I was arrested several times on the street and indeed scrubbed to the insult and spitting of people, was taken to a Kaserne where people were shot. During the uproar of coming and going I walked away.

2.2 How did non-Jewish friends, colleagues, schoolmates, neighbors, etc. behave toward you and your family?

There were no non-Jewish people who touched our life. Complete isolation. My friend the bicycle and I could go anywhere but it was always that I could visit or go to observe.

2.3 Could you please describe your recollections of November 9th, 1938, the so-called „Reichs-Kristallnacht“ (in case you still were in Austria at that time)

At that time I was already in France and tried to read french papers. There was no direct contact with anybody in Germany or Austria.

2.4 Were you or any members of your family arrested? Sent to a camp?

(If so, please give details.)

In order to disappear I entered a french school. I was not able to integrate I also was alone. My brother and father in Switzerland my mother in Vienna. My father moved to Paris. My brother came to meet me in Nice (France) and stayed with me. At the beginning of the war my father went to a camp my brother and I were interned went to several camps and ended up in Les Milles in the province. A day to day experience without hope. When the German army advanced, we broke out during transport.

2.5 Can you recall the process of obtaining papers necessary for emigration?

(Did you try to obtain visas for other countries as well? Were you supported by any relief organization, by relatives or friends?)

Though I had an austrian passport with "J" it could not be used. I went illegally to Switzerland after I tried to enter legally. After several weeks I entered France illegally. My passport was confiscated when I entered the first french camp. Since I left Vienna shortly after the school ended I had no orientation where to turn. I only knew I had to leave the country. I did not want anybody to know of my plans.

2.6 What happened to your (or your family's) apartments, houses, businesses and other property?

There were supposed to be belongings. I do not know what happened, there finally was nothing.

2.7 When did you leave Austria? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

About July 1938.

2.8 If you did not emigrate directly to the U.S., where did you go first?

(How long did you stay there? Can you give a brief description of your experiences?)

Was there an immediate reason - apart from the general threat - for your emigration?)

First try was Switzerland. Since I could not enter legally I walked across the border. Met my brother and father. They were legal. After several weeks I entered France. Went to Nice. Tried french school. Did not make it. Did receive some assistance from friends of my father. Summer 1939 was forced into french camp (Antibes). Was moved around came to "les Mûres" Volunteered heavy labor to obtain food. When German army advanced fled to more people to spanish border. Some friends and brother escaped train and returned to Marseille and Nice. Fabricated from official letter of Santo Domingo a passport and went to Morocco (Casablanca) International relief organization obtained visa under quota for America. Obtain passport from gov. of Morocco. to travel to Spain. That was in spring of 1942.

3. THE UNITED STATES

- 3.1 When did you arrive in the U.S.? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)**

March 12, 1942

- 3.2 Did members of your family emigrate to countries other than the U.S.? (If so, where? Where do they live today? Are you still in contact with them?)**

No

- 3.3 Did you serve in the U.S. Armed Forces or in any other allied army? (If so, when did you join? What division? What was your area of operation? When were you discharged?)**

Served in U.S. Army from early 1943 to January 1945. Prepared for service in First Regiment of European Civil Affairs. During transit I became sick and was sent back to the U.S.



**3.4 Please list places and dates of residence in the U.S.
(City, State; in bigger cities, neighborhood)**

- 1945 - 1948 New York City and Brooklyn.
* 1949 - 1950 Denver Colorado.
1951 - 1952 El Prat, Washington, Boulder Dam.
1953 - 1957 New York City
1958 - 1970 San Francisco.
1971 - 1974 Washington, South Africa (Johannesburg)
1975 - now San Francisco.

3.5 Please describe your occupational situation after your arrival in the U.S.

my father & brother went their way. From my experience in tech school in Vienna worked as machinist. Found a home with an ^{austrian} ~~gentile~~ fam. in New York Army and college 1945-1948 Civil engineer, structural engineer, architecture, construction see from * above. Retired in 1989.

3.6 Did you belong to any emigrant/immigrant-related organization or cultural association? (e.g. Austrian American Federation, Austrian Forum, etc.? If so, since when?)

No

- 3.7 Do you still speak German in the USA? If so, with whom and when? How often?

Yes. Spoke German with my father and mother. Have always read and reade german classical literature, speak German with German friend and my spouse.

- 3.8 Would you call yourself religious? To what degree? What is your affiliation? Did it change?

(Do you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe the holidays,...?)

Definitely no. I do not keep kosher and observe only the high holidays. Go to synagogue only on "Day of Atonement".

- 3.9 Were your friends and acquaintances mostly German-speaking or non-German-speaking? Mainly Jewish or not?

My society is mostly non German speaking and completely mixed religiuously. This come from my professional background.

- 3.10 Of what country (countries) are you a citizen? When was each citizenship granted?

Citizen of U.S.A. since 1943.

3.11 Have you ever visited Austria after the war? If so, how often?

(What did you do there? Can you recall some of your impressions during these visits?
Have you ever thought of going back permanently?)

three times. First I went to visit every place I knew
as a young man. My favored museums. My
walks along the streets of Vienna; by search for books
and records. Showing Vienna to my spouse. Trying
to find places I knew off but were not seen. Tried
to meet Viennese (non-Jewish) but never succeeded.
I thought about it but I would not have a
single soul to talk to.

4. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

4.1 Have you ever been interviewed by any other organization?

(If yes, please indicate when and by which organization?)

None

4.2 Have you ever been mentioned in any historical works?

(Holocaust-related literature, Documentary films, Exhibitions etc.)

No

5. FAMILY MEMBERS

- 5.1 **Spouse** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

Gerda, Alina Körner MN. Kalisch
born in Frauenkirchen Jan 21, 1934, retired.

- 5.2 **Mother** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

Regina Körner MN. Wanierska
born August 16, 1886 in Sadagura (Romania
now, Austria-Hungary)
Died Jan. 1980 in San Francisco.

- 5.3 **Father** (Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

Salomon Körner
born May 1st 1906 in Moldavia (Austria-Hungary)
died August 27, 1963 in Zurich (Switzerland)

- 5.4 **Siblings** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

Brother Isaak Körner
born June 19, 1914 Vienna
died Dec. 24, 1978 in Mexico

Professor of Psychology Ph.D. Graduate
School, Univ. of Wisconsin
Green Bay, Wisc.

- 5.5 **Children** (Name, Maiden Name, Address [City, State, Country], Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

David Lee Kornes born Oct. 4, 1957
6770 N. Pleasant Ave. Marin County Cal.
Fresno, Calif. 93711
Real Estate

Peter Eli Kornes born May 26 1958
1605 Kirkland Ave. Marin County, Cal.
Las Vegas, Nev. 89102

- 5.6 **Grandparents** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth, place/date of death, Occupation[s])

No data available

The Austrian Heritage Collection is always looking for people to interview.

If you know any Austrian-Jewish immigrants in the US who might be interested in participating in this project, please either ask them to contact us or write their addresses below.

I am your volunteer

H.K.

Thank you very much for participating in this project.

31 Mh. 1936

GRUND

SUMMER

01106160

Republik Österreich

Bei der Hauptstadt Wien.

Nr. Kj 108/26

Deimatfchein,

mit bestätigt wird, daß

Name Kojour Horner, geb. Hanauer

Charakter oder Beschäftigung

Alter geb. 27 III. 1886 Postagura, Pr.

Stand verheiratet

in Wien das Heimatrecht besitzt und in der Gemeindeamtst ad

M.B.A. III-2839/26 eingetragen erscheint.

Eigenhändige Unterschrift der Partei:

Vom magistratischen Bezirksamt für den III Bezirk
im selbständigen Wirkungsbereiche

Wien, am

19. 26

Für den Bürgermeister:

Hans
doe
Gaud

Hans
doe

Heiratsurkunde



Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien Nr. 184/1917/I

Der Schloma Körner - - - - -

- - - - -, wohnhaft Wien IX., Grüne Thorgasse 19 a -

geboren am 1. Mai 1892 in Sadagora - - - - -

(Standes amt (Pfarr amt Nr.), und die Rachel Waniewski - - - - -

- - - - -, wohnhaft Wien IX., Grüne Thorgasse 19 a -

geboren am 25. August 1886 in Sadagora - - - - -

(Standes amt (Pfarr amt Nr.), der haben am 14. Oktober 1917 - - - - - vor dem Standesamt

Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde Wien, Tempel I die Ehe geschlossen.

Vater des Mannes: Moses Fischel Körner - - - - -

Mutter des Mannes: Beila geb. Rott - - - - -

Vater der Frau: Meier Waniewski - - - - -

Mutter der Frau: Deborah geb. Heitner - - - - -

Vermerke: - - - - -



Wien, den 20. Februar 1917.

Der beeidete Matrikelführer:

Eheschließung der Eltern:

des Mannes am _____ (Standes amt _____ Nr. _____) (Pfarr amt _____)

der Frau am _____ (Standes amt _____ Nr. _____) (Pfarr amt _____)



Geburts-Zeugnis.

dem Unterzeichneten wird hiermit bestätigt, daß laut Geburts-Protokolles
der israelitischen Kultusgemeinde in Wien, 1921 Reihezahl 1932

Herbert Hörmann

am 29. Mai 1921 nach u. zwanzigsten

Mar Eintausend neun hundert ein u. zwanzig

als erster Sohn des Salomon Hörmann

Uniform und ein weißer Garnitur

Regine geb. Wanicewskia

in Wien Wollzeile 14 geboren wurde.

Wien, am 2. September 1921.



MATRIKELAMT DER
ISRAELITISCHEN KULTUSGEMEINDE
IN WIEN.

beideter Matrikelführer.

Kollationierl.



End of Herbert Korner Collection

